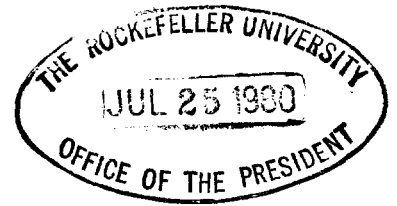


MEMORANDUM



To: Files

From: E.C. Whitehead

*Just ↓*

July 21, 1980

On Friday, July 11, 1980, Dr. Lederberg and I visited Dr. Y.W. Kan. Dr. Kan has a laboratory in a new building at the University of California San Francisco Medical School. His appointment is in the Department of Medicine and he has a Hughes Foundation Fellowship which pays his salary and supports, at least in part, his scientific program.

Dr. Kan has a fascinating history. He was trained as a hematologist having gone to medical school in Hong Kong and coming to the States for his advanced training which I believe was at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston. He moved on to San Francisco where he was appointed Hematologist-in-Chief at the San Francisco General Hospital. San Francisco General Hospital is a very poor cousin of the University Hospital of California. I believe it is a city hospital. While there as a working hematologist and running the lab, he did some fundamental work on the genetics of hemoglobin which led to interesting discoveries for both sickle cell diseases and Thalasemia. As a result of this, he was given a Hughes Fellowship and moved back to the campus of the University and is attached to the Department of Medicine. He, like Dr. Raff, has a tiny office which is fairly spartan and very crowded and, a very cluttered lab even though it is in a new building.

Dr. Kan is Chinese, and an attractive youngish man but very reserved and, perhaps, even introverted. It is obvious that he had never really considered any of the problems that one might encounter in founding a new institute. He readily voiced no opinions and, in fact, said very little on the various issues, i.e. program, the Board, tenure, appointments, recruiting, ad infinitum. Certainly there is little doubt that Dr. Kan is a remarkable man judging from his experience. However, it is my feeling that he is not ready in his career to take on the task of building a new research institute. He just has never really been concerned with the problems that we will face.

*PWN*

Dr. Lederberg, I believe, does not share this opinion from our brief discussion on the drive from Dr. Kan's laboratory to the airport. He agrees that Dr. Kan certainly has not thought much about the problems. However, Dr. Lederberg has a very strong gut feeling that Dr. Kan would do a good job for reasons he (Dr. L.) can't really explain. I must admit to feeling uncomfortable with taking a change on someone like this.

ECW/mlt

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